

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of improving installation of software packages, comprising steps of:
2 defining an object model representing a plurality of components of a software installation
3 package and one or more topology objects, wherein each component comprises a plurality of
4 objects and wherein each topology object identifies one or more selected ones of the components;
5 and
6 populating the object model to describe a particular software installation package and one
7 or more topologies for deployment of that particular software installation package.
- 1 2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of instantiating a plurality
2 of objects according to the defined object model, and wherein the populating step populates the
3 instantiated objects.
- 1 3. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the instantiated objects are JavaBeans.
- 1 4. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the instantiating step instantiates an object for
2 the particular software installation package and one or more component objects for each software
3 component included in the particular software installation package.
- 1 5. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2 selecting at least one of the topologies for deployment; and
3 using the populated object model to install the particular software installation package

4 using the selected topology.

1 6. The method according to Claim 5, wherein the step of using the populated object model
2 further comprises the steps of:

3 identifying one or more target machines on which the particular software installation
4 package is to be installed;

5 downloading the particular software installation package to the identified target machines;
6 and

7 performing an installation at each of the identified target machines using the downloaded
8 particular software installation package.

1 7. The method according to Claim 6, further comprising the step of authenticating a server
2 on which the downloading step operates prior to an operation of the step of performing the
3 installation.

4 8. The method according to Claim 1, wherein each topology object provides a recommended
5 configuration of the software installation package.

1 9. The method according to Claim 1, wherein each topology object provides a required
2 configuration of the software installation package.

1 10. A system for improving installation of software packages, comprising:

2 means for defining an object model representing a plurality of components of a software
3 installation package and one or more topology objects, wherein each component comprises a
4 plurality of objects and wherein each topology object identifies one or more selected ones of the
5 components; and

6 means for populating the object model to describe a particular software installation
7 package and one or more topologies for deployment of that particular software installation
8 package.

1 11. The system according to Claim 10, further comprising:

2 means for selecting at least one of the topologies for deployment; and

3 means for using the populated object model to install the particular software installation
4 package using the selected topology.

5 12. The system according to Claim 11, wherein the means for using the populated object
6 model further comprises:

7 means for identifying one or more target machines on which the particular software
8 installation package is to be installed;

9 means for downloading the particular software installation package to the identified target
10 machines; and

11 means for performing an installation at each of the identified target machines using the
12 downloaded particular software installation package.

1 13. The system according to Claim 10, wherein each topology object provides a recommended
2 configuration of the software installation package.

1 14. The system according to Claim 10, wherein each topology object provides a required
2 configuration of the software installation package.

1 15. A computer program product for improving installation of software packages, the
2 computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

3 computer-readable program code means for defining an object model representing a
4 plurality of components of a software installation package and one or more topology objects,
5 wherein each component comprises a plurality of objects and wherein each topology object
6 identifies one or more selected ones of the components; and

7 computer-readable program code means for populating the object model to describe a
8 particular software installation package and one or more topologies for deployment of that
9 particular software installation package.

1 16. The computer program product according to Claim 15, further comprising:

2 computer-readable program code means for selecting at least one of the topologies for
3 deployment; and

4 computer-readable program code means for using the populated object model to install the
5 particular software installation package using the selected topology.

1 17. The computer program product according to Claim 16, wherein the computer-readable
2 program code means for using the populated object model further comprises:

3 computer-readable program code means for identifying one or more target machines on
4 which the particular software installation package is to be installed;

5 computer-readable program code means for downloading the particular software
6 installation package to the identified target machines; and

7 computer-readable program code means for performing an installation at each of the
8 identified target machines using the downloaded particular software installation package.

18. The computer program product according to Claim 15, wherein each topology object
provides a recommended configuration of the software installation package.

19. The computer program product according to Claim 15, wherein each topology object
provides a required configuration of the software installation package.